



**Mr Douglas Arthur Ayre** FIEAust CPEng(Ret)

After working 10 years in the UK, Doug migrated to Western Australia in 1971 and worked as a manager in both electricity and gas, and with the energy safety regulator.

Doug became interested in history and completed a Certificate in Museum Studies at Edith Cowan University and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in History from Murdoch University in Perth. In 2001 Doug established his own business, History Development Pty Ltd, with a focus on oral history. He is an honorary life member of the Oral History Association of Australia, a member of the Toodyay Historical Society and Curator of the Scout Heritage Centre of WA.

In 2010 Doug joined Engineering Heritage Western Australia (EHWA) and led their oral history activities. EHWA currently has 13 completed oral histories, with 10 carried out personally by Doug between 2009 and 2019. All have been lodged with the WA State Library and some are also in the Mitchell Library in NSW.

Prior to joining EHWA, in 2006 and 2007 Doug worked on the East Perth Power Station Project and completed three oral histories there. In 2011 Doug managed national oral history issues in general and revised the procedure for oral history work to ensure that it was compatible with the digital recording and archival requirements of Engineers Australia National Library Manager. During this period Doug was a corresponding member of and reported to the Engineering Heritage Australia National Board.

Doug retired as a member of EHWA in April 2013, but as a corresponding member continued to support EHWA's ongoing oral history program. Each of the 10 oral histories undertaken by Doug have involved multiple meetings with interviewees and significant time in reviewing and finalising approved transcripts.

In recognition of his expertise, Doug was elected President of the Oral History Association of Australia – WA Branch in 2015 and has conducted several courses training oral historians on behalf of that organisation.

Doug is recognised for his expertise in interviewing in the engineering and technical area, and in an interview for Engineers Australia, Doug said of oral history: "It's an important part of our cultural heritage, if you don't get the story down, when that person dies, it dies with them." Doug's contribution to 'getting the story down' for Engineering Heritage has been substantial and is continuing. He is a worthy recipient of the Award of Merit.

